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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
TELETYPE INFORMATION REPORT

HR70-14

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DISSEMINATION CONTROL

OUT - DATE - TIME - GROUP  
(OUT 90859) 1:06 PM 29 MARCH 1957

PRECEDENCE  
 ROUTINE

COUNTRY  
USSR/EAST GERMANY

PLACE ACQUIRED  
USSR

SUBJECT  
ZHUKOV ADDRESS TO GSFG SENIOR TROOP COMMANDERS

DATE OF INFORMATION  
12 TO 16 MARCH 1957

REFERENCES

APPRAISAL OF CONTENT (TENTATIVE)  
2 (REFERS TO REPORTORIAL ACCURACY)

SOURCE (EVALUATION DEFINITIVE)  
RELIABLE SOURCE

THE SOVIET MINISTER OF DEFENSE, MARSHAL GEORGIY K. ZHUKOV, VISITED EAST GERMANY [GDR] FROM 12 TO 16 MARCH 1957. DURING THIS VISIT, MARSHAL ZHUKOV ADDRESSED A MEETING OF THE SENIOR TROOP COMMANDERS OF THE GROUP OF SOVIET FORCES, GERMANY [GSFG]. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS A SUMMARY OF MARSHAL ZHUKOV'S REMARKS AT THAT MEETING.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. MARSHAL ZHUKOV CHARACTERIZED THE CONTEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL SITUATION AS A MANIFESTATION OF TENSIONS AND THE SHARPENING OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CAMPS OF CAPITALISM AND SOCIALISM, AS WELL AS BETWEEN INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES, INCLUDING CERTAIN NATO NATIONS. HE CITED THE ANGLO-FRENCH FIASCO IN THE WAR AGAINST EGYPT, AND THE DECISIVE ROLE PLAYED BY THE SOVIETS IN THIS [FIASCO]. SPEAKING OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND GREAT BRITAIN, ZHUKOV SAID THAT BRITAIN

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1 MAR 58 WHICH IS OBSOLETE.

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FINDS HERSELF GREATLY DEPENDENT ON THE U.S. ECONOMICALLY; THE U. S. IS FORCED TO RECKON WITH BRITAIN BECAUSE THE U.S. NEEDS ALLIES IN EUROPE. THE U.S. IS EXERTING PARTICULAR EFFORT IN EUROPEAN POLITICS WITH RESPECT TO ADVANCEMENT OF WEST GERMANY.

2. MARSHAL ZHUKOV MENTIONED THAT HE HAD BEEN VERY CORDIALLY RECEIVED IN INDIA AND BURMA DURING HIS VISITS TO THOSE COUNTRIES. HE STATED THAT THE PEOPLES OF THOSE COUNTRIES HAVE GREAT SYMPATHY FOR THE SOVIETS, AND HATE THE BRITISH FOR THEIR PAST COLONIALISM. HE POINTED OUT THAT NEITHER INDIA NOR BURMA ACTUALLY HAS ARMED FORCES, AND THAT THE FEW MILITARY UNITS WHICH THOSE COUNTRIES DO HAVE ARE ARMED WITH OBSOLETE WEAPONS, AND ARE POORLY ORGANIZED. COMMUNIST CHINA PLAYS A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THE POLICIES FOR POLITICS OF INDIA AND BURMA, AS COMMUNIST CHINA CAN HAVE A STRONG AND "PROGRESSIVE" INFLUENCE ON THOSE TWO COUNTRIES.

3. ZHUKOV ASSERTED THAT MUTUAL RESPECT MUST BE MAINTAINED BETWEEN THE GSFG AND THE GDR "PEOPLE'S ARMY", BUT THAT STRICT SECURITY MEASURES MUST BE MAINTAINED BY THE SOVIET ARMY IN REGARD TO THE GDR ARMY. CERTAIN SOVIET UNITS HAVE PERMITTED GDR ARMY PERSONNEL TO LEARN TOO MUCH ABOUT SOVIET ARMY EQUIPMENT AND TECHNIQUES. SOVIET PERSONNEL MUST NOT TRUST GERMANS, SINCE GDR ARMY VOLUNTEERS HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO FLEE TO THE WEST AFTER THEIR MILITARY SERVICE WAS COMPLETED.

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4. WHEN THE "COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY" UPRISING COMMENCED IN HUNGARY, THERE WERE ONLY TWO SOVIET RIFLE DIVISIONS IN HUNGARY, ONE OF WHICH WAS MOVED INTO BUDAPEST WHEN THE FIGHTING BEGAN. WHEN THE HUNGARIAN ARMY WENT OVER TO THE REBELS, ORDERS WERE GIVEN TO WITHDRAW THE SOVIET DIVISION FROM BUDAPEST, BECAUSE THE DIVISION HAD SUSTAINED HEAVY LOSSES. TWELVE TANK AND MECHANIZED DIVISIONS WERE THEN SENT FROM THE TRANS-CARPATHIAN AND ODESSA MILITARY DISTRICTS TO POSITIONS IN BUDAPEST, AND ALONG THE AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN BORDER. ZHUKOV EMPHASIZED THE FACT THAT A FOUR-HUNDRED-KILOMETER MARCH HAD BEEN ACCOMPLISHED IN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS IN THESE TROOP MOVEMENTS. ZHUKOV THEN NOTED THAT THE HUNGARIANS ARE A BRAVE PEOPLE AND ABLE FIGHTERS, AND THAT THE ENTIRE HUNGARIAN ARMY, WHICH HAD 700 SOVIET TANKS AND 4,000 GUNS, HAD GONE OVER TO THE REBELS. IN SPITE OF THIS, HE SAID, THE UPRISING WAS PUT DOWN QUICKLY, WHICH INDICATED THE HIGH DEGREE OF COMBAT EFFICIENCY OF THE SOVIET TANK AND MECHANIZED FORMATIONS.

SOVIET MILITARY INTENTIONS AND PREPAREDNESS

5. MARSHAL ZHUKOV DECLARED THAT THE SOVIET ARMY IS SO STRONG THAT IT COULD ACHIEVE VICTORY OVER ITS ENEMIES IN A VERY SHORT TIME. HE SAID THAT THE STRATEGIC AND TACTICAL DOCTRINES UNDER WHICH THE GSFG OPERATES ARE OBSOLETE, AND THAT OPERATIONS MUST NOW BE PLANNED SO THAT SOVIET FORCES WILL REACH THE ENGLISH CHANNEL ON THE SECOND DAY OF WAR.

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6. IN THE EVENT THAT THE WESTERN POWERS SHOULD SUDDENLY UNLEASH A WAR, THE GSFG MUST HOLD OUT FOR FORTY-SIX HOURS, BECAUSE THAT IS THE PERIOD DURING WHICH THE SECOND ECHelon OF SOVIET TROOPS WILL MOVE UP, EQUIPPED WITH ALL TYPES OF MODERN WEAPONS. THE SECOND ECHelon WILL HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR OFFENSIVE ACTION, AND THE EXPERIENCE GAINED IN MOVING TROOPS INTO HUNGARY INDICATES THAT IT WILL REQUIRE FORTY-SIX HOURS TO DEPLOY THE SECOND ECHelon.

7. ZHUKOV EMPHASIZED THE FACT THAT THE SOVIETS WILL DEFINITELY BE THE ONES TO START THE WAR, IN ORDER TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE FACTOR OF SURPRISE. AS SOON AS IT IS APPARENT THAT WESTERN FORCES ARE PREPARING TO UNLEASH A WAR, THE SOVIETS MUST BEAT THEM TO THE PUNCH.

GSFG COMBAT READINESS AND DISCIPLINE

8. WHEN ASKED WHY THE GSFG WAS NOT ARMED WITH THE NEWEST EQUIPMENT, ZHUKOV REPLIED THAT THIS WAS UNNECESSARY BECAUSE THE PRESENT EQUIPMENT IS ADEQUATE FOR THE TASKS ASSIGNED TO THE GSFG; THE ISSUE OF NEW MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO THE CSFC IS OUT OF THE QUESTION, BECAUSE RE-EQUIPPING THESE FORCES WOULD AROUSE AN UNNECESSARY REACTION IN THE WEST, AND WESTERN AGENTS IN GERMANY ARE OBSERVING THE SOVIET FORCES FROM EVERY HOUSE. AS AN EXAMPLE, ZHUKOV CITED THE SINKING OF A FERRY WHICH WAS CARRYING SOLDIERS OF THE THIRD MECHANIZED ARMY, STATING THAT THIS INCIDENT WAS KNOWN IN THE WEST ON THE FOLLOWING DAY.

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9. MARSHAL ZHUKOV WITNESSED EXERCISES OF GSFG TANK AND MECHANIZED UNITS, AND WAS DISSATISFIED WITH THE SLOWNESS OF THEIR ACTION; THE TEMPO OF THE OFFENSIVE WAS SLOW IN THE ZONE OF ENEMY TACTICAL DEFENSE, ESPECIALLY. MARSHAL ANDREY A. GRECHKO, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE GSFG, EXPLAINED THAT THERE WAS AN ATTEMPT TO SHOW THE MOVEMENT OF TROOPS ALONG THE LINE OF CONTACT AND AGAINST OBJECTIVES, BUT ZEUKOV ANSWERED THAT NO DEMONSTRATIVE TRAINING WAS NECESSARY--TANKS MUST FORCE AHEAD AND SET THE PACE FOR THE ENTIRE OFFENSIVE.

10. ZHUKOV EXPRESSED HIS DISSATISFACTION WITH GSFG TROOP DISCIPLINE, STATING THAT THERE HAVE BEEN A GREAT MANY INSTANCES OF VIOLATION OF GDR SOVEREIGNTY, AND ACTS OF HOOLIGANISM, BY SOVIET SOLDIERS OF THE GSFG. HE STATED: "YOU [TROOPS OF THE GSFG] ARE LETTING DOWN YOUR MINISTER, WHO HAS SIGNED AN AGREEMENT REGARDING THE PRESENCE OF SOVIET TROOPS IN THE GDR." COMMENT: THIS SOVIET-CDR AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED IN BERLIN ON 12 MARCH 1957.]

NEW SOVIET ARMAMENT AND MILITARY STRATEGY

11. THE SOVIET ARMED FORCES POSSESS EVERYTHING WHICH IS ESSENTIAL TO A MODERN WAR. THE SITUATION WHICH EXISTED IN 1941 WILL NEVER RECUR, ZHUKOV SAID. THE MiG-19 FIGHTER AIRCRAFT IS OBSOLETE, AS THERE ARE NOW AIRCRAFT WHICH HAVE SPEEDS OF 1800 TO 2000 KILOMETERS PER HOUR, AND OPERATIONAL CEILINGS OF 25 TO 30 KILOMETERS. THE T-10 TANK HAS BEEN WITHDRAWN FROM PRODUCTION, BECAUSE <sup>A</sup> NEW HEAVY TANK IS BEING BUILT FOR USE IN ATOMIC WARFARE. ITS ARMOR IS STRONGER, AND THE TANK IS MORE

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MANEUVERABLE AND PRACTICAL IN OPERATION. IN THE SOVIET NAVY, BASIC ATTENTION IS BEING PAID TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SUBMARINE FLEET; IN ARTILLERY--TO INCREASING THE RATE OF FIRE. THE GUNS WITH WHICH THE GSFG IS EQUIPPED ARE OBSOLETE, ACCORDING TO ZHUKOV.

12. ROCKET WEAPONS (REAKTIVNOYE ORUZHIYE), BOTH LONG-RANGE AND TACTICAL, HAVE UNDERGONE EXTENSIVE DEVELOPMENT. AS AN EXAMPLE, ZHUKOV STATED THAT TACTICAL GUIDED MISSILES WILL DEVIATE FROM THEIR TARGETS BY ONLY 200 METERS AT A RANGE OF 120 KILOMETERS. THE DIFFICULTY IN THE FIELD OF AVIATION IS NOT IN INCREASING THE SPEED AND ALTITUDE OF THE AIRCRAFT, BUT IN ADAPTATION OF PILOTS. IN MODERN AIRCRAFT, THE PILOT IS PUT INTO A PRESSURIZED SUIT (THE CABIN IS NOT HERMETICALLY SEALED), WHICH MAKES IT DIFFICULT FOR THE PILOT TO JUMP FROM THE AIRCRAFT IN CASE OF AN ACCIDENT. IT IS DIFFICULT FOR A PILOT IN A PRESSURIZED SUIT TO OPERATE AN AIRCRAFT, BUT THIS PROBLEM IS BEING SOLVED.

13. GREAT ATTENTION IS BEING GIVEN TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF AIRBORNE TROOPS AND ANTIAIRCRAFT DEFENSE (PVO) ASSETS. REGARDING THE UTILIZATION OF AIRBORNE TROOPS, ZHUKOV GAVE THE OPINION THAT MODERN WAR WILL NOT BE LIKE WORLD WAR II. MODERN WAR WILL BE CARRIED ON IN THE FRONT AND IN THE REAR (BY AIRBORNE TROOPS).

DISPARAGEMENT OF U.S. ALERTNESS AND ATOMIC CAPABILITIES

14. MARSHAL ZHUKOV STATED THAT, SINCE "OUR ENEMIES" IN THE WEST ARE AN EXCESSIVELY INTELLIGENT PEOPLE WHO LIKE TO ENJOY THEMSELVES, GSFG TRAINING MUST

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TAKE PLACE AT NIGHT AND DURING WESTERN HOLIDAYS. DURING THESE PERIODS OF TIME, WESTERNERS WILL NOT BE CONCERNED WITH WHAT "WE" ARE DOING; FROM NOW ON, ZHUKOV ADDED, TWO-THIRDS OF ALL EXERCISES WILL TAKE PLACE AT NIGHT. FURTHERMORE, THE PROPER MOMENT FOR STARTING THE WAR WILL BE CHOSEN WITH THESE FACTS IN MIND.

15. THE UNITED STATES ARMY HAS NO ATOMIC WEAPONS IN WEST GERMANY, ZHUKOV STATED, AND ATOMIC CANNON DO NOT REPRESENT ANY SPECIAL THREAT, SINCE SUCH GUNS BECOME INOPERATIVE AFTER THREE OR FOUR ROUNDS ARE FIRED. THE AMERICAN ANNOUNCEMENTS CONCERNING THE EQUIPPING OF THE U.S. ARMY IN WEST GERMANY, AND THE WEST GERMAN ARMY, WITH ATOMIC WEAPONS, WERE CHARACTERIZED BY ZHUKOV AS PROPAGANDA AIMED AT OVERLY NERVOUS INDIVIDUALS.

COMMENT: THERE IS NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT MARSHAL ZHUKOV'S COMMENTS HAVE BEEN REPORTED INACCURATELY; HOWEVER, PENDING APPROPRIATE EVALUATION OF THE SUBSTANTIVE DETAILS OF THIS REPORT, ATTENTION IS INVITED TO THE POSSIBILITY THAT ZHUKOV MAY HAVE BEEN SPEAKING WITH THE AIM OF BOOSTING GSFG MORALE.

COMMENT: DETAILED EVALUATIONS REQUESTED OF ARMY, AIR, AND OCI.

END OF MESSAGE

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